

The establishment of this family appears to me to acquire greater importance, as some at least of the genera *Borya*, *Alania*, *Johnsonia*, and *Laemannia*, must be referred to it; these are genera allied to *Aphyllanthes*, which, in the characters of their vegetation, resemble either the *Junceæ* or the *Cyperaceæ*, and which have their petaloid flowers accompanied by scale-like persistent bracts, the two superior of which are opposite, almost like the glumes of the *Gramineæ*, and are sometimes bifid or trifid, bidentate or tridentate at the apex. These flowers are also disposed in groups or heads, which, after flowering, present a great resemblance to the heads of *Chaetospora* or *Xyris* after their petals have fallen.—*Comptes Rendus*, 27th August 1855, p. 344.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR AUG. 1855.

Chiswick.—August 1. Very fine. 2. Very fine: heavy rain. 3—5. Very fine. 6. Overcast. 7. Very fine. 8. Rain: thunder: heavy rain. 9. Cloudy and fine: clear at night. 10. Foggy, with heavy dew: very fine: slight haze: very fine. 11. Slight haze: very fine. 12. Overcast: fine: clear. 13. Very fine. 14. Cloudy and fine. 15, 16. Very fine. 17. Slight fog: very fine. 18. Very fine. 19. Very fine: slight rain at night. 20. Slight rain: cloudy and boisterous. 21. Fine: clear and windy. 22. Very fine. 23. Very fine: much sheet and forked lightning at night. 24—26. Very fine. 27. Very fine: cloudy at night. 28, 29. Very fine. 30. Very fine: clear at night. 31. Very fine.

Mean temperature of the month	61°·63
Mean temperature of Aug. 1854	60·55
Mean temperature of Aug. for the last twenty-nine years ...	61·98
Average amount of rain in Aug.	2·446 inches.

Boston.—Aug. 1. Fine: rain A.M. 2—4. Fine. 5, 6. Cloudy. 7. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M., with thunder. 8. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 9. Rain A.M. 10. Fine. 11. Cloudy. 12. Cloudy: rain A.M. 13. Fine. 14. Cloudy. 15—18. Fine. 19. Fine: rain A.M. 20. Cloudy: rain A.M. 21, 22. Cloudy. 23. Cloudy: rain A.M. and P.M. 24. Fine. 25. Fine: rain P.M. 26—28. Fine. 29. Cloudy. 30, 31. Fine.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—Aug. 1. Cloudy A.M.: fine, fog P.M. 2. Rain A.M.: fine, cloudy P.M. 3. Clear A.M.: fine, drops, thunder and lightning P.M. 4. Rain A.M.: drizzle, showery P.M. 5. Bright A.M.: cloudy P.M. 6. Clear A.M. and P.M. 7. Rain A.M.: showers P.M. 8. Rain A.M.: drizzle P.M. 9. Drizzle A.M.: clear, vapour P.M. 10. Hazy A.M.: damp P.M. 11. Cloudy A.M.: showers P.M. 12. Cloudy A.M.: damp P.M. 13. Showers A.M.: cloudy P.M. 14. Bright A.M.: cloudy P.M. 15. Drizzle A.M.: cloudy P.M. 16. Cloudy A.M.: rain P.M. 17. Cloudy A.M. and P.M. 18, 19. Cloudy A.M.: cloudy, thunder and lightning P.M. 20. Showers A.M.: rain P.M. 21. Bright A.M.: cloudy P.M. 22. Showers A.M. and P.M. 23. Showers, bright A.M.: clear P.M. 24. Cloudy A.M.: rain P.M. 25. Clear A.M. and P.M. 26, 27. Rain A.M.: cloudy P.M. 28. Clear A.M.: showers P.M. 29. Bright A.M.: clear P.M. 30. Drops A.M.: clear, drops P.M. 31. Cloudy A.M. and P.M.

Mean temperature of Aug. for twenty-eight previous years ...	54°·99
Mean temperature of this month	56·10
Mean temperature of Aug. 1854	55·06
Average quantity of rain in Aug. for fifteen previous years ...	2·95 inches.